

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /066 W

-----011257Z 100382 /44

R 311618Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7147

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IC, US

SUBJECT: PROGRESSIVE PARTY RESTATES OPPOSITION TO U.S. DEFENSE
PRESENCE

1. ICELAND'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY, AT BIENNIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING LAST WEEKEND, ISSUED POLICY STATEMENT REITERATING PP'S FAMILIAR STANCE ON DEFENSE ISSUES. TEXT OF ITEM READS: "ICELAND PARTICIPATES IN DEFENSE COOPERATION AMONG THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES, BUT STRIVES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA TOWARD MAKING ALL MILITARY ALLIANCES UNNECESSARY. THE (CENTRAL COMMITTEE) MEETING REITERATES THE PREVIOUS DECISION OF THE PP (CALLING FOR NO FOREIGN FORCES HERE IN PEACETIME) AND STRESSES THE NEED FOR STRICT MONITORING OF THE MILITARY BASE AS LONG AS THE DEFENSE FORCE REMAINS IN THE COUNTRY."

2. PARTY CHAIRMAN OLAFUR JOHANNESSEN, IN HIS ADDRESS
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TO MEETING, GAVE AMBIGUOUS DISCOURSE ON DEFENSE QUESTION WHICH, NONETHELESS MADE CLEAR POINT THAT CURRENT GOI POLICY WAS SUBJECT TO REVIEW AS CHANGES ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE OCCURRED.

3. ONLY OTHER FOREIGN POLICY POINT MADE BY PP'S WAS DEMAND THAT NO PERMISSION BE GRANTED FOR FOREIGNERS TO

FISH INSIDE ICELAND'S 200-MILE LIMITS AS LONG AS ICELAND-ERS COULD UTILIZE ENTIRE CATCH FROM THIS AREA. (FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON HAD PREVIEWED THIS POSITION IN HIS REMARKS TO MEETING. SEE REYKJAVIK 429.)

4. ENTIRE PP LEADERSHIP SLATE WAS EASILY REELECTED. CHAIRMAN JOHANNESSEN AND VICE CHAIRMAN AGUSTSSON, WITH 100 AND 95 VOTES RESPECTIVELY OUT OF MAXIMUM 112, SHOWED NO SIGNS OF DAMAGE FROM LAST YEAR'S FREQUENT ALLEGATIONS OF MALFEASANCE AGAINST THEM. (SEE REYKJAVIK 42).

5. COMMENT: PP DEFENSE POLICY STATEMENT SERVES AS REMINDER THAT DESPITE PARTY'S PARTICIPATION IN INCUMBENT "PRO-BASE" GOVERNMENT AND NOTWITHSTANDING VACILATING ON ISSUES BY SOME OF ITS MEMBERS, PROGRESSIVES REMAIN OFFICIALLY ON RECORD AS OPPOSED TO US DEFENSE PRESENCE IN ICELAND.

BLAKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, ALLIANCE, POLITICAL PARTIES, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977REYKJA00452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770112-0436
Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977032/aaaaabqp.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 351ed0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2990307
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROGRESSIVE PARTY RESTATES OPPOSITION TO U.S. DEFENSE PRESENCE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/351ed0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009